

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO KAY PATTERSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian, a close personal friend, and exemplary public figure in the State of South Carolina and his community, Senator Kay Patterson. On April 17, 2003, the Columbia Housing Authority will honor Senator Patterson's lifetime of achievements by placing his likeness on its Wall of Fame. This recognition comes on the heels of BellSouth's recognition of his accomplishments by honoring him on its 2003 African American History Calendar.

Born in Darlington County, SC, Senator Patterson was raised by his grandmothers, Meta B. Patterson and Emma Joseph. After graduation from Lincoln High School in Sumter, South Carolina, he enrolled at Claflin College for two years before leaving to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and rose to the rank of buck-sergeant. Upon completing his military service, Senator Patterson returned to South Carolina and matriculated at Allen University where he earned a B.A. Degree in Social Sciences. Several years later, he would earn a Masters Degree in Education from South Carolina State University.

Like myself, he started his professional career as a middle school teacher. His commitment to educating our youth provided the foundation for Senator Patterson's illustrious career. His 14 years of service as an educator at W.A. Perry Middle School, C.A. Johnson High School and Benedict College and 16 years as a UniServ Representative for the South Carolina Education Association are testimony of his willingness and tenaciousness on behalf of students and teachers.

Senator Patterson began his successful odyssey toward high achievement as a politician in 1974, when he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives. He would serve in the House until 1985, when he was elected to his current position in the South Carolina Senate. Renowned as a fiery and inspirational orator, Patterson has been a dynamic force in promoting change in his native state. He represents the constituents in Richland County Senate District 19 on the Senate's Banking & Insurance, Corrections & Penology, Education, Finance & Transportation Committees. In addition, Senator Patterson currently serves as Chairman of the Richland County Legislative Delegation.

Among Senator Patterson's numerous civic activities are membership in the North Columbia Civic Club and life membership in the NAACP, and I am proud to claim him as my brother in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., to which he became a member while enrolled at Claflin.

Senator Patterson was elected by the South Carolina House Education Committee to serve on the University of South Carolina's Board of

Trustees in 1983. He was elected Chairman of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus in 1990, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from South Carolina State University in 2000. And on a personal note is Chair of Friends of Jim Clyburn, my political organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have been asked to deliver the Keynote address at Kay's induction ceremony and ask you and my colleagues to join me in applauding Senator Patterson for a lifetime of lofty achievements. My most sincere congratulations go out to him for his endless accomplishments, and loyal and dedicated friendship.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM FAIRNESS ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to re-introduce the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act. A few years ago many of my constituents were placed into a special flood hazard area, indicated by FEMA's Flood Rate Maps, that requires them to purchase flood insurance that can cost over \$1,000 per year.

These residents were not notified that they would be required to purchase flood insurance until 2 months or less before the maps became effective, even though the law is supposed to give them six months notice and ample time to purchase flood insurance. Needless to say, this took many of my constituents by surprise when they were required to purchase costly insurance at a moments notice, having not seen flooding in decades or even a lifetime.

Several residents who did not believe they were in the flood zone hired surveyors at their own expense, and many residents continue to hire surveyors. The private surveyors' data has resulted in removal of homes from the special flood hazard area, thus removing them from their obligation to purchase flood insurance. In the long run, while these residents are not required to purchase flood insurance, they have spent over \$200 each for surveyor costs. Unfortunately, this cost burden is the responsibility of the property owner. They were told by FEMA that under current law property owners who challenge the presumed flood classification are responsible for the surveyor expense even though the incorrect classification is no fault of their own.

Clearly, the National Flood Insurance Program needs to be revised to give homeowners more notice, due process, and financial protection when they succeed in removing their property from the base flood elevation classification. That is why I am proposing the National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act.

The National Flood Insurance Program Fairness Act does the following:

The bill improves the existing program by requiring the FEMA Director to notify by registered mail the Chief Executive Officer of each community affected by the changes in Flood Insurance Rate Maps, rather than by first class mail as is the case currently. The Director will be required to provide a copy of the revised map, along with a statement explaining the process of appeal. The Director will also provide the affected community sufficient information to identify which homes are affected.

It also requires the Director to notify by registered mail, rather than first class mail, the Chief Executive Officer of each community of FEMA's response to the community's appeal of the flood insurance rate maps. This change will ensure that the community receives the notice of changes and has ample time to comply with the map changes within the statutory effective date.

The bill improves upon current law by requiring the Director to notify by first class mail each owner of property affected by the changes in the flood insurance rate maps. Currently, the community is responsible for making sure that the residents are aware of the flood map changes. Requiring FEMA to notify residents expedites the process by eliminating the middleman.

Finally, it requires FEMA to reimburse a resident or property owner for reasonable costs incurred in connection with a surveyor or engineer for a successful request to be removed from the special flood hazard area to the Director. This does not include legal services incurred by the resident.

It is my hope that this legislation will allow communities to work more effectively with FEMA to ensure that residents are given sufficient, fair, and timely notice if they are required to purchase flood insurance and to ensure that homeowners are not held financially liable when a change in a community's flood insurance rate map does not affect their property. In the last Congress I had members from both sides of the aisle cosponsor the bill. I hope to receive even greater support for the bill in the current Congress and look forward to working with my colleagues to see enactment of the National Flood Insurance Program Act.

INTRODUCTION OF FERN LAKE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ACT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today, I am joined by Congressman ZACH WAMP in reintroducing legislation to protect Fern Lake, an important part of our shared scenic heritage. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL will be introducing identical legislation in the U.S. Senate today.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

This legislation will allow the National Park Service to purchase Fern Lake and incorporate these lands into the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park boundary. Further, this legislation will secure a clean and reliable water source for the city of Middlesboro, Kentucky.

This bill authorizes the purchase of land now neighboring the Gap boundary and the 150-acre lake. The measure would also allow the Park Service to acquire another 4,500 acres of adjoining watershed from willing sellers if funds become available. By buying this property, we will protect this important national passageway for generations and address the resource needs of our local communities today.

This legislation began with a petition, delivered to me by Ben Hickman, the mayor of Middlesboro. From there, we sat down with the National Park Service and brought them together with local officials to create this win-win opportunity for the park and the entire region both in Kentucky and Tennessee.

This important acquisition fits into our efforts to create jobs, protect our environmental resources, and promote economic development by enhancing our potential for tourism. I am proud to have the support of Congressman WAMP and look forward to its passage at a later date.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" SELLERS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. William "Bill" Sellers of Waynesville, Missouri.

Mr. Sellers was born in Davisville, Missouri, on August 5, 1926. Bill was married to his wonderful wife, Melba, on November 2, 1945. He has always been a community, religious, and business leader.

Mr. Sellers has thirty-two years of sales experience in the automobile industry. He served as the General Manager of Springfield Lincoln-Mercury in Springfield, Missouri, and Sales Coordinator of Craig Distributing Company of Salem, Missouri. Bill went on to form Sellers-Sexton Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, and Mazda Dealership, in St. Robert, Missouri, with his partner Larry Sexton. Mr. Sellers was the Vice-President of Sellers-Sexton, Inc. He was also a member of the Missouri Automobile Dealers Association and a member of the National Automobile Dealers Association.

Mr. Sellers was a successful businessman, but above that, he was a caring community leader and a loving Christian man. Bill was the past President of the Fort Leonard Wood Mid-Missouri Chapter of Association of the United States Army, a member and past Chairman of the Committee of Fifty, and past board member of the Waynesville/St. Robert Chamber of Commerce. He was a 32nd degree Mason, member of Tyro Lodge No. 12 in Caledonia, member of Abou Ben Adheim Shrine in Springfield, Missouri, and member of the Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society.

Mr. Sellers was a strong Christian man who was not afraid to share his beliefs with others.

Bill was ordained Deacon in 1973 from Southaven Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, and was a member of Westside Baptist Church, Waynesville, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Sellers was a man who never met a stranger and was always willing to help his fellow man. He had a steadfast dedication to his family, church, community, and business. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife Melba; his three children Connie Sexton, Billie Jean Dalton, and J. Craig Sellers; and his five grandchildren.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWS40

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the 5th anniversary of NEWS40, which is currently serving Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties in Massachusetts.

NEWS40 originally aired on April 14, 1953 on Channel 55 as an affiliate of CBS and Dumont Television Networks. However, in 1956 the station was reallocated to Channel 40, and in 1959 changed affiliations to join the ABC network. The Guy Gannett Publishing Company of Maine purchased the radio portion of the network in 1979, which necessitated new call letters for the television station. After an in-house contest, WHYN-TV became WGGB-TV, named after the publishing company. In April of 1999, the Sinclair Broadcast Group of Baltimore, MD purchased NEWS40 and facilitated the use of a digital transmitter while on the air. Despite a variety of administrative changes throughout its history, NEWS40 remains a dominant leader in local news.

Located in the heart of Springfield, MA, NEWS40 sets the standard in entertainment, news, and community involvement. It is the home of hits such as Nightline, 20/20, N.Y.P.D. Blue, and The Practice, as well as quality children programming. Moreover, NEWS40 is an essential participant in local community events. NEWS40 was among the earliest stations to carry the Muscular Dystrophy telethon, and has been televising the event for 35 years. Also, the station collects over 10,000 coats to distribute throughout the winter for the "Coats for Kids" campaign, and collaborates with the Salvation Army to provide Thanksgiving meals for over 600 families. As an active partner with Head Start, the station is a vehicle to collect toys, clothing, and housewares from viewers for the "All I Want for Christmas" campaign. The station's annual contribution to the community demonstrates the essential role of NEWS40 in the greater Springfield area.

As the station celebrates its 50th anniversary I would like to commend their continuous role in the community. From the days of live news broadcasts to the beginning of the digital transmitter, NEWS40 is truly coverage you can count on to be an active and essential member of the community.

RURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, in the dark of night on August 27, 2002, the town of Kaycee, Wyoming was overwhelmed by a four-foot surge of water from the Powder River caused by a severe and destructive rainstorm pouring down two-thirds of the town's annual rainfall within a six-hour period. The damage was disastrous, over 80 percent of Kaycee's businesses and one-third of their residences were damaged or destroyed. But despite Kaycee's massive loss—one that would have cost billions had Manhattan, Los Angeles or Chicago lost 80 percent of their businesses—there was no disaster declaration.

This flood effectively erased the community of Kaycee, and it's absolutely preposterous that a disaster of this magnitude does not qualify as a disaster. A comparable disaster in Washington, D.C. would have destroyed 96,196 homes and 15,575 businesses. Washington, D.C. would not function after such a disaster and neither can Kaycee, Wyoming. In fact, under today's criteria, a majority of Wyoming's communities could be destroyed without receiving a disaster designation, as Kaycee has shown. The federal disaster designation criteria need to be re-calibrated.

In the Stafford Act, the law that governs disaster relief, Congress prohibited discrimination against small communities by outlawing the use of formulas and scales based on income and population. Somehow, however, the rules that came after the Congressional action neglected to observe these guidelines. That's why I am drafting legislation that will reinstate fairness in disaster relief. My bill will send FEMA back to the drawing board to create rules that will respect Congressional intent and not freeze out cities and towns across the country simply because they are small towns. It will also create an office of rural advocacy to assist small states in the application for disaster assistance and advocate for rural concerns in rulemakings and other administrative actions. When federal agencies promulgate rules that are counter to the intent of Congress, it is our obligation as a body to reassert those intentions and have the appropriate agency correct its errors. Passage of this bill will do just that.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA L. STONE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a native South Carolinian and multi-talented dignitary in the entertainment industry, Angela L. Stone. By proudly representing her home state in her enormously successful recording career, Ms. Stone will be inducted to the Columbia Housing Authority's Wall of Fame on April 17, 2003.

Like so many successful recording artists, Ms. Stone began her singing career in the church. At the age of 11, she performed her